

1 **CLAIMS**

2 I claim:

3 1. A system for preventing the delivery of unsolicited and undesired
4 electronic messages comprising:

5 a sending device sending electronic messages wherein each said electronic
6 message sent by said sending device contains data identifying each said electronic
7 message sent and wherein each said electronic message sent by said sending device
8 contains data identifying the sending device purportedly sending each said electronic
9 message;

10 a receiving device receiving electronic messages, said receiving device
11 communicating with a receiving module,

12 said receiving module comprising:

13 means for temporarily withholding from delivery to the intended
14 recipient an electronic message received by said receiving device;

15 means for locating within said received electronic message data
16 identifying said received electronic message;

17 means for locating within said received electronic message data
18 identifying the device from which the received electronic message is purported to have
19 been sent;

20 means for preparing and transmitting a confirmation request to the device
21 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, wherein said
22 confirmation request contains data identifying said received electronic message;

1 means for receiving a reply to said confirmation request wherein said
2 reply affirms or denies that said received electronic message was sent by said device
3 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, and;
4 means for permitting delivery of said received electronic message to the
5 intended recipient when the reply to said confirmation request message affirms that the
6 device identified as the purported sender of the message sent the message,
7 said sending device communicating with a sending module and said sending
8 device comprising means for receiving a confirmation request from said receiving
9 module and for communicating said confirmation request to said sending module,
10 said sending module comprising:
11 means for locating within each said electronic message sent by said
12 sending device data identifying each said electronic message, wherein said data
13 identifying each said electronic message corresponds to the data identifying said
14 received electronic message included in said confirmation request;
15 means for copying and storing said data identifying each said electronic
16 message sent by said sending device and wherein said data identifying each said
17 electronic message copied and stored by said sending device corresponds to the data
18 identifying said received electronic message included in said confirmation request
19 prepared by said receiving module;
20 means for receiving a confirmation request from said sending device;
21 means for comparing the data identifying said received electronic
22 message within said confirmation request with the data identifying each electronic

1 message sent by said sending device and stored by said sending module to determine
2 whether the data identifying said received electronic message in said confirmation
3 request message identifies an electronic message sent by said sending device; and
4 means for replying to said confirmation request message wherein said
5 reply confirms that said sending device sent the received electronic message when the
6 data identifying said received electronic message contained within said confirmation
7 request message identifies a message sent by said sending device and wherein said reply
8 denies that said sending device sent the received electronic message when the data
9 identifying the received electronic message contained within said confirmation request
10 message does not identify an electronic message sent by said device sending electronic
11 messages.

12 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the data identifying said received
13 electronic message by said receiving module comprises the date and time the received
14 electronic message was prepared and the electronic address for the purported sender of
15 said received electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said electronic
16 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said electronic
17 message was prepared and the electronic address for the sender of each said sent
18 electronic message.

19 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the data identifying said received
20 electronic message by said receiving module comprises the date and time the received
21 electronic message was prepared, the electronic address for the purported sender of said
22 received electronic message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of

1 said received electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said electronic
2 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said electronic
3 message was prepared, the electronic address for the sender of each said sent electronic
4 message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of each said sent
5 electronic message.

6 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the receiving module further comprises
7 means for encrypting said confirmation request and means for decrypting said reply to
8 said confirmation request and wherein the sending module further comprises means for
9 decrypting said confirmation request and means for encrypting said reply to said
10 confirmation request message.

11 5. A system for preventing the delivery of unsolicited and undesired
12 electronic messages comprising:

13 a sending device sending electronic messages wherein each said electronic
14 message sent by said sending device contains data identifying the sending device
15 purportedly sending each said electronic message;

16 a receiving device receiving electronic messages, said receiving device
17 communicating with a receiving module;

18 said receiving module comprising:

19 means for temporarily withholding from delivery to the intended
20 recipient an electronic message received by said receiving device;

21 means for preparing an identification data string from said received
22 electronic message wherein said identification data string is prepared by applying an

1 algorithm to said received electronic message;

2 means for locating within said received electronic message data

3 identifying the device from which the received electronic message is purported to have

4 been sent;

5 means for preparing and transmitting a confirmation request to the device

6 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, wherein said

7 confirmation request contains said identification data string prepared by said receiving

8 module for said received electronic message;

9 means for receiving a reply to said confirmation request wherein said

10 reply affirms or denies that said received electronic message was sent by said device

11 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, and;

12 means for permitting delivery of said received electronic message to the

13 intended recipient when the reply to said confirmation request message affirms that the

14 device identified as the purported sender of the message sent the message,

15 said sending device communicating with a sending module and said sending

16 device comprising means for receiving confirmation requests from said receiving

17 module and for communicating said confirmation requests to said sending module,

18 said sending module comprising:

19 means for preparing an identification data string for each electronic

20 message sent by said sending device wherein said identification data string is prepared

21 by applying said algorithm to each said sent electronic message;

22 means for storing said identification data string for each said electronic

1 message sent by said sending device;
2 means for receiving a confirmation request from said sending device;
3 means for comparing the identification data string for a received
4 electronic message within said confirmation request with each identification data string
5 for each electronic message sent by said sending device and stored by said sending
6 module to determine whether the identification data string for said received electronic
7 message in said confirmation request message identifies an electronic message sent by
8 said sending device; and
9 means for replying to said confirmation request message wherein said
10 reply confirms that said sending device sent the received electronic message when the
11 identification data string identifying said received electronic message contained within
12 said confirmation request message identifies a message sent by said sending device and
13 wherein said reply denies that said sending device sent the received electronic message
14 when the identification data string identifying the received electronic message contained
15 within said confirmation request message does not identify an electronic message sent
16 by said device sending electronic messages.

17 6. The system of claim 5 wherein the receiving module further comprises
18 means for encrypting said confirmation request and means for decrypting said reply to
19 said confirmation request and wherein the sending module further comprises means for
20 decrypting said confirmation request and means for encrypting said reply to said
21 confirmation request message.

22 7. The system of claim 5 wherein said sending module further comprises

1 means for including said identification data string in each said sent electronic message.

2 8. A system for preventing the delivery of unsolicited and undesired
3 electronic messages comprising:

4 a sending device sending electronic messages wherein each said electronic
5 message sent by said sending device contains data identifying each said electronic
6 message sent and wherein each said electronic message sent by said sending device
7 contains data identifying the sending device purportedly sending each said electronic
8 message;

9 a receiving device receiving electronic messages, said receiving device
10 communicating with a receiving module;

11 said receiving module comprising:

12 means for temporarily withholding from delivery to the intended
13 recipient an electronic message received by said receiving device;

14 means for locating within said received electronic message data
15 identifying said received electronic message;

16 means for locating within said received electronic message data
17 identifying the device from which the received electronic message is purported to have
18 been sent;

19 means for preparing an identification data string from said received
20 electronic message wherein said identification data string is prepared by applying an
21 algorithm to said received electronic message;

22 means for preparing and transmitting a confirmation request to the device

1 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, wherein said
2 confirmation request contains data identifying said received electronic message and said
3 identification data string prepared for said received electronic message;
4 means for receiving a reply to said confirmation request wherein said
5 reply affirms or denies that said received electronic message was sent by said device
6 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, and;
7 means for permitting delivery of said received electronic message to the
8 intended recipient when the reply to said confirmation request message affirms that the
9 device identified as the purported sender of the message sent the message,
10 said sending device communicating with a sending module and said sending
11 device comprising means for receiving confirmation requests from said receiving
12 module and for communicating said confirmation requests to said sending module,
13 said sending module comprising:
14 means for locating within each electronic message sent by said sending
15 device data identifying each said electronic message, wherein said data identifying each
16 said electronic message corresponds to the data identifying said received electronic
17 message included in said confirmation request;
18 means for preparing an identification data string for each electronic
19 message sent by said sending device wherein said identification data string is prepared
20 by applying said algorithm to each said sent electronic message;
21 means for copying and storing said identification data string and said data
22 identifying each said electronic message sent by said sending device and wherein said

1 data identifying each said electronic message copied and stored by said sending device
2 corresponds to the data identifying each received electronic message included in said
3 confirmation request prepared by said receiving module;
4 means for receiving a confirmation request from said sending device;
5 means for comparing the identification data string and the data
6 identifying said received electronic message within said confirmation request with each
7 identification data string and the data identifying each electronic message sent by said
8 sending device and stored by said sending module to determine whether the
9 identification data string and the data identifying said received electronic message in
10 said confirmation request message identifies an electronic message sent by said sending
11 device; and
12 means for replying to said confirmation request message wherein said
13 reply confirms that said sending device sent the received electronic message when the
14 identification data string and the data identifying said received electronic message
15 contained within said confirmation request message identifies a message sent by said
16 sending device and wherein said reply denies that said sending device sent the received
17 electronic message when the identification data string and the data identifying the
18 received electronic message contained within said confirmation request message does
19 not identify an electronic message sent by said device sending electronic messages.
20 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the data identifying said received
21 electronic message by said receiving module comprises the date and time the received
22 electronic message was prepared and the electronic address for the purported sender of

1 said received electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said electronic
2 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said electronic
3 message was prepared and the electronic address for the sender of each said sent
4 electronic message.

5 10. The system of claim 8 wherein the data identifying said received
6 electronic message by said receiving module comprises the date and time the received
7 electronic message was prepared, the electronic address for the purported sender of said
8 received electronic message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of
9 said received electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said electronic
10 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said electronic
11 message was prepared, the electronic address for the sender of each said sent electronic
12 message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of each said sent
13 electronic message.

14 11. The system of claim 8 wherein the receiving module further comprises
15 means for encrypting said confirmation request and means for decrypting said reply to
16 said confirmation request and wherein the sending module further comprises means for
17 decrypting said confirmation request and means for encrypting said reply to said
18 confirmation request message.

19 12. A system for preventing the delivery of unsolicited and undesired
20 electronic messages comprising:

21 a sending device sending electronic messages wherein each said electronic
22 message sent by said sending device contains data identifying each said electronic

1 message sent and wherein each said electronic message sent by said sending device
2 contains data identifying said sending device;
3 a confirmation device in communication with said sending device;
4 a receiving device receiving electronic messages, said receiving device
5 communicating with a receiving module;
6 said receiving module comprising:
7 means for temporarily withholding from delivery to the intended
8 recipient an electronic message received by said receiving device;
9 means for locating within said received electronic message data
10 identifying the device from which the received electronic message is purported to have
11 been sent;
12 means for preparing and transmitting a confirmation request to said
13 confirmation device wherein said confirmation request contains data identifying said
14 received electronic message and data identifying the device from which said received
15 electronic message is purported to have been sent;
16 means for receiving a reply to a confirmation request wherein said reply
17 affirms or denies that said received electronic message was sent by said device
18 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, and;
19 means for permitting delivery of said received electronic message to the
20 intended recipient when the reply to said confirmation request message affirms that the
21 device identified as the purported sender of the message sent the message,
22 said sending device comprising means for transmitting to said confirmation

1 device data identifying each electronic message sent by said sending device wherein
2 said data identifying each said electronic message corresponds to the data identifying
3 said received electronic message in said confirmation request;
4 said confirmation device comprising:
5 means for storing said data identifying each said electronic message sent
6 by said sending device and wherein said data identifying each said electronic message
7 copied and stored by said confirmation device corresponds to the data identifying said
8 received electronic message in said confirmation request prepared by said receiving
9 module;
10 means for receiving a confirmation request from said receiving module;
11 means for comparing the data identifying said received electronic
12 message within said confirmation request with the data identifying each electronic
13 message sent by said sending device and stored by said confirmation device to
14 determine whether the data identifying said received electronic message in said
15 confirmation request message identifies an electronic message sent by said sending
16 device; and
17 means for replying to said confirmation request message wherein said
18 reply confirms that said sending device sent the received electronic message when the
19 data identifying said received electronic message contained within said confirmation
20 request message identifies a message sent by said sending device and wherein said reply
21 denies that said sending device sent the received electronic message when the data
22 identifying the received electronic message contained within said confirmation request

1 message does not identify an electronic message sent by said sending device.

2 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the data identifying said received
3 electronic message by said receiving module comprises the date and time the received
4 electronic message was prepared and the electronic address for the purported sender of
5 said received electronic message and wherein the data identifying each said electronic
6 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said electronic
7 message was prepared and the electronic address for the sender of each said sent
8 electronic message.

9 14. The system of claim 12 wherein the data identifying said received
10 electronic message by said receiving module comprises the date and time the received
11 electronic message was prepared, the electronic address for the purported sender of said
12 received electronic message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of
13 said received electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said electronic
14 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said electronic
15 message was prepared, the electronic address for the sender of each said sent electronic
16 message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of each said sent
17 electronic message.

18 15. The system of claim 12 wherein the receiving module further comprises
19 means for encrypting said confirmation request and means for decrypting said reply to
20 said confirmation request and wherein said confirmation device further comprises means
21 for decrypting said confirmation request and means for encrypting said reply to said
22 confirmation request message.

1 16. A system for preventing the delivery of unsolicited and undesired
2 electronic messages comprising:
3 a sending device sending electronic messages wherein each said electronic
4 message sent by said sending device contains data identifying each said electronic
5 message sent and wherein each said electronic message sent by said sending device
6 contains data identifying said sending device;
7 a confirmation device in communication with said sending device;
8 a receiving device receiving electronic messages, said receiving device
9 communicating with a receiving module;
10 said receiving module comprising:
11 means for temporarily withholding from delivery to the intended
12 recipient an electronic message received by said receiving device;
13 means for preparing an identification data string from said received
14 electronic message wherein said identification data string is prepared by applying an
15 algorithm to said received electronic message;
16 means for locating within said received electronic message data
17 identifying the device from which the received electronic message is purported to have
18 been sent;
19 means for preparing and transmitting a confirmation request wherein said
20 confirmation request contains said identification data string prepared by said receiving
21 module for said received electronic message;
22 means for receiving a reply to a confirmation request wherein said reply

1 affirms or denies that said received electronic message was sent by said device
2 identified as the purported sender of said received electronic message, and;
3 means for permitting delivery of said received electronic message to the
4 intended recipient when the reply to said confirmation request message affirms that the
5 device identified as the purported sender of the message sent the message;
6 said sending device comprising means for preparing an identification data string
7 for each said electronic message sent by said sending device wherein said identification
8 data string is prepared by applying said algorithm to each said sent electronic message
9 and further comprising means for transmitting said identification data string for each
10 said electronic message to said confirmation device;
11 said confirmation device comprising
12 means for storing said identification data string for each said electronic
13 message sent by said sending device;
14 means for receiving a confirmation request from said receiving module;
15 means for comparing the identification data string for said received
16 electronic message within said confirmation request with each identification data string
17 for each said electronic message sent by said sending device and stored by said
18 confirmation device to determine whether the identification data string for said received
19 electronic message in said confirmation request identifies an electronic message sent by
20 said sending device; and
21 means for replying to said confirmation request message wherein said
22 reply confirms that said sending device sent the received electronic message when the

1 identification data string identifying said received electronic message contained within
2 said confirmation request message identifies a message sent by said sending device and
3 wherein said reply denies that said sending device sent the received electronic message
4 when the identification data string identifying the received electronic message contained
5 within said confirmation request message does not identify an electronic message sent
6 by said sending device.

7 17. A method for preventing the delivery of unsolicited and undesired
8 electronic messages in a network comprising at least one sending device sending
9 electronic messages and at least one receiving device receiving electronic messages
10 wherein each said electronic message sent by said sending device contains data
11 identifying each said electronic message sent and wherein each said electronic message
12 sent by said sending device contains data identifying the sending device purportedly
13 sending each said electronic message, the method comprising the steps of:

14 preparing, by said sending device, an information record for each said electronic
15 message sent by said sending device wherein each said information record contains data
16 identifying each said electronic message sent by said sending device;

17 storing each said information record prepared by said sending device;

18 transmitting, by said sending device, an electronic message to said receiving
19 device;

20 receiving, by said receiving device, an electronic message sent by said sending
21 device;

22 withholding the delivery to the intended recipient of said electronic message

1 received by said receiving device;

2 locating, by said receiving device, within said received electronic message

3 device, data identifying said received electronic message and data identifying said

4 sending device from which the received electronic message is purported to have been

5 sent, wherein said data identifying said received electronic message corresponds to said

6 data identifying each electronic message sent by said sending device and stored by said

7 sending device in an information record;

8 preparing, by said receiving device, a confirmation request wherein said

9 confirmation request contains data identifying said received electronic message wherein

10 said data identifying said received electronic message corresponds to data identifying

11 each electronic message sent by said sending device and stored by said sending device

12 in an information record;

13 transmitting, by said receiving device, said confirmation request to said sending

14 device purported to have been the sender of said received electronic message;

15 receiving, by said sending device, said confirmation request wherein said

16 confirmation request contains data identifying a received electronic message by said

17 receiving device and wherein said data identifying a received electronic message

18 corresponds to data identifying an electronic message sent by said sending device and

19 stored in an information record;

20 comparing, by said sending device, data identifying said received electronic

21 message with data in each said information record to determine whether said received

22 electronic message was sent by said sending device;

1 replying, by said sending device, to said confirmation request, wherein said reply
2 affirms that said received electronic message was sent by said sending device when said
3 data identifying said received electronic message identifies an electronic message sent
4 by said sending device and wherein said reply denies that said received electronic
5 message originated from said sending device when said data identifying said received
6 electronic message in said confirmation request does not identify an electronic message
7 sent by said sending device;

8 receiving, by said receiving device, a reply to said confirmation record, and;

9 making available for delivery, by said receiving device, said received electronic
10 message to said intended recipient when said reply to said confirmation record affirms
11 that said sending device sent said received electronic message.

12 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the data identifying each said electronic
13 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time the electronic message
14 was prepared and the electronic address for the purported sender of each said sent
15 electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said received electronic
16 message received by said receiving device comprises the date and time said electronic
17 message was prepared and the electronic address for the purported sender of said
18 received electronic message.

19 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the data identifying each said electronic
20 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time the sent electronic
21 message was prepared, the electronic address for the purported sender of said sent
22 electronic message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of said sent

1 electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said received electronic
2 message received by said receiving device comprises the date and time the received
3 electronic message was prepared, the electronic address for the purported sender of said
4 received electronic message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of
5 said received electronic message.

6 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of transmitting a confirmation
7 request by said receiving device further includes encrypting said confirmation request,
8 the step of receiving said confirmation request by said sending device further includes
9 decrypting said confirmation request, the step of replying to said confirmation request
10 by said sending device further includes encrypting said reply, and the step of receiving
11 said reply by said receiving device further includes decrypting said reply.

12 21. The method of claim 17 wherein the method further includes the steps of:
13 preparing, by said sending device and by applying an algorithm to each said
14 electronic message sent by said sending device, an identification data string for each
15 said electronic message sent by said sending device and including said identification
16 data string in said information record for each said sent electronic message;
17 preparing, by said receiving device for said received electronic message, an
18 identification data string for said received electronic message by applying said algorithm
19 to said received electronic message, and;
20 wherein the step of preparing said confirmation request further includes including said
21 identification data string for said received electronic message in said confirmation
22 request and wherein the step of comparing, by said sending device, data identifying said

1 received electronic message with data in each said information record further includes
2 comparing said identification data string in said confirmation request with each said
3 identification data string in each said information record for each said sent electronic
4 message to determine whether said received electronic message was transmitted by said
5 sending device.

6 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the method further includes the step of
7 appending to said electronic message transmitted by said sending device to said
8 receiving device said identification data string prepared for said electronic message
9 transmitted to said receiving device.

10 23. The method of claim 21 wherein the step of transmitting a confirmation
11 request by said receiving device further includes encrypting said confirmation request,
12 the step of receiving said confirmation request by said sending device includes
13 decrypting said confirmation request, the step of replying to said confirmation request
14 by said sending device further includes encrypting said reply, and the step of receiving
15 said reply by said receiving device further includes decrypting said reply.

16 24. A method for preventing the delivery of unsolicited and undesired
17 electronic messages in a network comprising at least one sending device sending
18 electronic messages, at least one receiving device receiving electronic messages and at
19 least one confirming device, confirming the authenticity of electronic messages sent by
20 at least one sending device, wherein each said electronic message sent by said sending
21 device contains data identifying each said electronic message sent and wherein each said
22 electronic message sent by said sending device contains data identifying the sending

1 device purportedly sending each said electronic message, the method comprising the
2 steps of:

3 transmitting to said confirming device by said sending device, data identifying
4 each said electronic message sent by said sending device,

5 preparing, by said confirming device, an information record for each said
6 electronic message sent by said sending device wherein each said information record
7 contains data identifying each said electronic message sent by said sending device;

8 storing said information records by said confirming device;

9 transmitting, by said sending device, an electronic message to said receiving
10 device;

11 receiving, by said receiving device, an electronic message sent by said sending
12 device;

13 withholding the delivery to the intended recipient of said electronic message
14 received by said receiving device;

15 locating, by said receiving device, within said received electronic message
16 device, data identifying said received electronic message and data identifying said
17 sending device from which the received electronic message is purported to have been
18 sent, wherein said data identifying said received electronic message corresponds to said
19 data identifying each electronic message sent by said sending device and stored by said
20 confirming device in an information record;

21 preparing, by said receiving device, a confirmation request wherein said
22 confirmation request contains data identifying said received electronic message wherein

1 said data identifying said received electronic message corresponds to data identifying
2 each electronic message sent by said sending device and stored by said confirming
3 device in an information record and wherein said confirmation request contains data
4 identifying said sending device from which the received electronic message is purported
5 to have been sent;

6 transmitting, by said receiving device, said confirmation request to said
7 confirming device;

8 receiving, by said confirming device, said confirmation request wherein said
9 confirmation request contains data identifying an electronic message received by said
10 receiving device and wherein said data identifying said received electronic message
11 corresponds to data identifying an electronic message sent by said sending device and
12 stored by said confirming device in an information record and wherein said confirmation
13 request contains data identifying said sending device from which the received electronic
14 message is purported to have been sent;

15 comparing, by said confirming device, data identifying said received electronic
16 message with data in each said information record for said sending device purported to
17 have sent said received electronic message to determine whether said received electronic
18 message was transmitted by said sending device;

19 replying, by said confirming device, to said confirmation request, wherein said
20 reply affirms that said received electronic message was sent by said sending device
21 when said data identifying said received electronic message identifies an electronic
22 message sent by said sending device and wherein said reply denies that said received

1 electronic message was sent by said sending device when said data identifying said
2 received electronic message in said confirmation request does not identify an electronic
3 message sent by said sending device;
4 receiving, by said receiving device, a reply to said confirmation record, and;
5 making available for delivery, said received electronic message to said intended
6 recipient when said reply to said confirmation record affirms that said sending device
7 sent said received electronic message.

8 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the data identifying each said electronic
9 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said sent
10 electronic message was prepared and the electronic address for the purported sender of
11 each said sent electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said received
12 electronic message received by said receiving device comprises the date and time said
13 electronic message was prepared and the electronic address for the purported sender of
14 said received electronic message.

15 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the data identifying each said electronic
16 message sent by said sending device comprises the date and time each said sent
17 electronic message was prepared, the electronic address for the purported sender of each
18 said sent electronic message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients of
19 each said sent electronic message and wherein said data identifying each said received
20 electronic message received by said receiving device comprises the date and time said
21 received electronic message was sent, the electronic address for the purported sender of
22 said received electronic message, and the electronic addresses for the intended recipients

1 of said received electronic message.

2 27. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of transmitting a confirmation
3 request by said receiving device further includes encrypting said confirmation request,
4 the step of receiving said confirmation request by said confirming device includes
5 decrypting said confirmation request, the step of replying to said confirmation request
6 by said confirming device includes encrypting said reply, and the step of receiving said
7 reply by said receiving device further includes decrypting said reply.

8 28. The method of claim 24 wherein the method further includes the steps of:
9 preparing, by said sending device and by applying an algorithm to each said
10 electronic message sent by said sending device, an identification data string for each
11 said electronic message sent by said sending device, and;

12 preparing, by said receiving device for said received electronic message, an
13 identification data string for said received electronic message by applying said algorithm
14 to said received electronic message, and;

15 wherein the step of transmitting to said confirming device by said sending device, data
16 identifying each said electronic message sent by said sending device further includes
17 transmitting said identification data string prepared for each said sent electronic
18 message, wherein the step of preparing, by said confirming device, an information
19 record for each said electronic message further comprises including each said
20 identification data string in each said information record for each said sent electronic
21 message and wherein the step of preparing, by said receiving device, a confirmation
22 request further includes including said identification data string for said received

1 electronic message in said confirmation request and wherein the step of comparing, by
2 said confirming device, data identifying said received electronic message with data in
3 each said information record further includes comparing said identification data string in
4 said confirmation request with each said identification data string in each said
5 information record for each said sent electronic message to determine whether said
6 received electronic message was sent by said sending device.

7 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the method further includes the step of
8 appending to said electronic message transmitted by said sending device to said
9 receiving device said identification data string prepared for said electronic message
10 transmitted to said receiving device.

11 30. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of transmitting a confirmation
12 request by said receiving device further includes encrypting said confirmation request,
13 the step of receiving said confirmation request by said confirming device includes
14 decrypting said confirmation request, the step of replying to said confirmation request
15 by said confirming device further includes encrypting said reply, and the step of
16 receiving said reply by said receiving device further includes decrypting said reply.